

II. Remarks

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested.

Claims 61-91 and 116-120 are pending in the application with Claims 61 and 73 being independent. Claims 61 and 73 have been amended for clarity with respect to the specification and drawings, and not for reasons relating to the statutory requirements for patentability.

The undersigned would like to thank Examiner Maiorino for the telephone interview of November 19, 2004. The Examiner's helpful comments and suggestions were instrumental in preparing this response.

Claims 61-91 and 116-120 were rejected as being unpatentable over Vardi '483, Richter, and Hicks, for the reasons detailed at pages 2-5 of the Office Action. Applicants respectfully traverse all art rejections.

As discussed during the interview, each of independent Claims 61 and 73 recites a novel combination of structure and/or function whereby an endovascular sleeve for delivering a pair of guidewires to a bifurcated body passageway of a patient includes a first tubular passageway and a second tubular passageway fixed with respect to one another along a seam therebetween. The first tubular passageway has a first distal end and a first proximal end, and the second tubular passageway has a second distal end and a second proximal end. The first distal end extends distally beyond the second distal end to define a junction which is

configured to abut against a crotch in the bifurcated body passageway of the patient, and the second tubular passageway second proximal end extends from the patient.

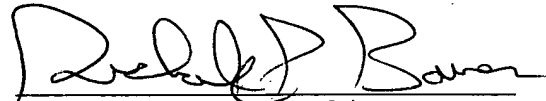
In contrast, none of the cited art (including Vardi '483, Richter, and Hicks), whether taken individually or in combination, discloses or suggests this unique combination of features. As discussed during the interview, Applicants submit that Vardi '483 is not entitled to any date prior to the July 31, 1998 priority date for the subject application. The Examiner is respectfully requested to order and examine the priority documents for Vardi '483, as stated in the Examiner Interview Summary Record mailed December 2, 2004.

With respect to Richter, Applicants respectfully submit that the Richter passageways are not fixed with respect to each other, as an examination of Figs. 15 and 16 clearly shows.

In view of the above, it is believed that this application is now in condition for allowance, and a Notice thereof is respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 625-3507. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard P. Bauer", written over a horizontal line.

Attorney for Applicants
Richard P. Bauer
Registration No. 31,588

Patent Administrator
KATTEN MUCHIN ROSENMAN LLP
525 West Monroe Street
Suite 1600
Chicago, Illinois 60661-3693
Facsimile No.: (312) 902-1061

Doc #:WAS01 (213202-00267) 41596466v1;05/04/2005/Time:12:35